

ICRN Wasted Its Chances

You say you have already heard 'the facts' over WNTC? And, you are tired of listening to the hassle over the whole thing? You are right. And, don't worry! We're not going to urge to go to your Senator, and tell him how to cast his vote. He already has.

His vote last Tuesday, after listening to arguments pro and con, and after reading the WSUC Committee report, was in favor of setting up WSUC. This, in spite of WNTC spot editorials, urging a vote against WSUC. "You don't want a radio station up at that college," said one, apparently momentarily forgetting the name of the college.

Why did your Senator vote for WSUC? Why are we taking the stand for WSUC which has reaped us letters to (another) the editor, and the wrath of a columnist?

ICRN, asked for reasons for the limited State influence on the Executive Board of ICRN, gave not reasons, but flimsy excuses such as, "well, the chief engineer must hold a first-class operators license, a license which is very hard to obtain," the obvious inference being that a State student would not be able to earn such a license. We know of two State students who hold this license.

While noting that there were some inequities in the ICRN constitutions, ICRN representatives were not optimistic about the prospects of correcting them at all (they do not think the Clarkson Student Council will agree to equal possibility of representation), much less by the end of this academic year.

The ICRN representatives also promised that monthly financial reports would be made to the State SGA Treasurer from the present time on. While on Finance Committee last year during budget hearings, we heard a similar promise which was never fulfilled, and from research we have done, we discover that promises of a similar vein have been regularly made and broken many times in the past.

"ICRN is definitely willing to expand its programming in the future, if called upon, to include important Potsdam campus issues, SGA reports, basketball games, and others," said ICRN representative. Yet, past experience has proven that promises of this vein, made every year when students are made aware of ICRN practices, have not been kept. Earlier this year, a broadcast of a State basketball game was cancelled to broadcast a Clarkson basketball game (State won; Clarkson, we believe, lost); earlier this year, a broadcast of students' views of the food service controversy was cut short by an executive of ICRN because he did not think it important to the campus; and one student we know tells us of taking an announcement to WNTC several times, calling the station manager, program director, and several announcers concerning the announcement, and not hearing it. . . it concerned SGA elections (an event which is, admittedly of little consequence on the Clarkson campus, but. . .).

The financial status of this station is open to much speculation. As vice-chairman of Finance Committee with then Treasurer Wes McMillian, we were privileged to know more than the average student about the finances, yet we were quite in ignorance as to just exactly was the destination and purpose of our allotment to ICRN, and so was Wes. We do remember, however, being told that our \$1500 was one-third of the operating costs to the ICRN, and that this money would be used exclusively for the operation of WNTC. "You do not receive the direct benefits of WNTC," we were told by ICRN representatives at that time, "so we don't think we should charge you for them." The truth is, however, that our contribution is more than one-third the operating expenses, and that WNTC receives the preponderance of the ICRN budget. Why? Partially because there are two WTSC stations — AM and FM. But this cannot be the full reason, as both AM and FM stations broadcast the same material, at the same time, so that the only cost for FM is in the electricity to transmit.

What about the equipment? We ignored this for one reason. The ICRN constitution provides that in the event of dissolution of the network, all equipment becomes the exclusive property of Clarkson Student Council. This includes transmitters, microphones, wire, records, tapes, and paper clips. . . lock, stock and barrel, and the State SGA could only look on in a terrible sadness, its hands bound.

ICRN does not recommend the move to a campus radio station.

The facts speak fairly well for themselves, but let us collect them. Promises have been made time and again, but never kept. State programming has been ignored, or placed a last second to Clarkson interests. Inequities in representation show no promising promise for correction, only more delays. State students, and the college as a college, are equally held as only necessary for the occasional entertainment of the Clarkson mind.

Value judgements? Yes. But are they valid? How long will this student body allow itself to be dragged through the coal bin without protest? How long must we wait for a State identity? Not very, it seems. The SGA has made on of the first moves contemplated to, not sever relations with Clarkson, but to establish a harmony between the colleges. . . making them the "Northern Twin-Colleges" which WNTC is so fond of.

Vox Populi . .

WSUC Will Provide Lacking Maturity

editor:

In the past two weeks, there have been many views expressed concerning the new radio station proposal for our campus. As a result of varying interpretations of various opinions, digs and stabs have been pointed at State and Clarkson. An official opinion seems to be in order.

Monday night, on WNTC, a report "of the facts" was presented by . . . of State. I admire ICRN's efforts to sabotage our proposal for a State radio station, and this petition is more evidence of ICRN's "fork tongue." In February, I received a letter from ICRN, offering their help in the establishing our station; now they wish to stop this proposal.

The radio station issue carries with it questions of cooperation with Clarkson in the future. As State students, we must decide if the Potsdam State identity is significant and important, and if so, isn't it about time we had our own system of communications besides *The Racquette*.

The size of each institution is relatively the same, but paying one-third of ICRN budget doesn't seem to show the equalization. The fact is, that there aren't enough hours in the day to provide either campus with a comprehensive radio service. The only need State has for Clarkson, is the guys for our girls and their Hockey team. But I don't think that our Basketball team did too badly. The fact is, there is a need for a mature broadcasting medium that provides entertainment first, then communications and education.

I am really impressed by ICRN's efforts to reorganize after enough significant complaints have been expressed.

Potsdam State and Clarkson are two entirely different institutions (as can be seen by the Knight), and we cannot afford to be led around by the nose any longer. The boys across the river may have their social significance for now, but that is where it ends.

Are we proud of our own id-

entity? Are we a sub-unit of Clarkson? Is the service that is provided by ICRN so much more, than our own radio station could provide? (Maybe so, if you include the live broadcast of the ROTC Ball).

Make no mistake, this President of SGA is completely pro-Potsdam, and supports the radio station proposal. Monday, the Student Government Cabinet passed the proposal by a unanimous vote, and the Senate did the same with the dissent of one vote.

We must stand on our own two feet, instead of on someone else shoulder. If you believe in Potsdam State, then your reaction to the ICRN petition, the slanderous remarks on the radio and the complete lack of responsibility on their part, can be nothing less than a whole hearted support of a mature proposal for a mature entering, communicating, and educational medium.

Wesley J. McMillian
President, S.G.A.